

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



INTRODUCTION

The French colony of Ubangi-Shari became the Central African Republic upon independence in 1960. After three tumultuous decades of misrule - mostly by military governments - civilian rule was established in 1993 but lasted only a decade. Peace agreements signed in 2017 and 2019 between the government and armed factions have had little effect and armed groups operate openly.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Faustin-Archange TOUADERA

Head of Government

Prime Minister Henri-Marie DONDRA

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Bangui

Legislature

unicameral National Assembly or Assemblée Nationale (140 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 622,884 sq km
Land: 622,884 sq km
Water: 0 sq km

Climate

tropical; hot, dry winters; mild to hot, wet summers

Natural Resources

diamonds, uranium, timber, gold, oil, hydropower

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

enormous natural resources; extreme poverty; weak public institutions and infrastructure; political and gender-based violence have led to displacement of roughly 25% of population; Bangui-Douala corridor blockade reduced activity and tax collection; strong agricultural performance offset COVID-19 downturn

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$4.483 billion (2019 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$945 (2019 est.)

Industries - gold and diamond mining, logging, brewing, sugar refining

Agricultural products - cassava, yams, groundnuts, taro, bananas, sugarcane, beef, maize, plantains, milk

Exports \$113.7 million (2017 est.)

lumber, gold, diamonds, sea vessels, cocoa paste (2019)

partners: China 41%, UAE 19%, France 7% (2019)

Imports \$393.1 million (2017 est.)

refined petroleum, packaged medicines, natural gas, broadcasting equipment, second-hand clothing (2019)

partners: India 18%, France 12%, US 11%, China 9%, Netherlands 7%, Belgium 7%, Malta 6% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

5.4 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

1.79% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Baya 29%, Banda 23%, Mandjia 10%, Sara 8%, M'Baka 8%, Mboum 6%, Arab-Fulani 6%, Ngbanki 6%, other 4% (2003 est.)

Language

French (official), Sangho (lingua franca and national language), tribal languages

Religion

Christian 89%, Muslim 9%, folk religion 1%, unaffiliated 1% (2020 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 42.6% of total population (2021)

rate of urbanization: 3.32% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

